

## **Small Group Guide: Ezekiel 38-39 - The Battle of Gog and Magog**



### **Opening Prayer**

Begin your group time with prayer, asking God to give wisdom and understanding as you explore His prophetic word together.

### **Ice Breaker**

What comes to mind when you think about biblical prophecy? Does it excite you, confuse you, or intimidate you? Why?

## **Key Takeaways**

1. **God's Sovereignty Over History:** God orchestrates events to accomplish His purposes and reveal Himself to the nations.

2. **Israel's Restoration Precedes This Battle:** The prophecy assumes Israel has been regathered, the land restored, and the nation dwelling in peace and prosperity.

3. **Supernatural Deliverance:** God will defend Israel through miraculous intervention, not human military might.

4. **Global Recognition of God:** This event will cause many nations to acknowledge the one true God.

5. **Prophetic Ambiguity:** The exact timing remains uncertain, reminding us that no one knows the day or hour of end-times events.

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Text**

1. Who is Gog? Based on the sermon, what do we know about this leader? Why might the identity be somewhat unclear?

2. What nations are involved in this coalition? Look at the modern equivalents mentioned (Turkey, Iran, Libya, Ethiopia/Sudan, possibly Russia). What surprises you about this list?

3. What is the condition of Israel when this attack occurs? (Hint: gathered, prosperous, at peace, dwelling safely) Why is this significant?

4. What motivates Gog to attack Israel according to verses 10-12? How does greed play a role in this prophetic scenario?

## **Theological Reflection**

5. How does God protect Israel in this battle? What does this supernatural deliverance teach us about God's character and His covenant faithfulness?
6. The sermon mentions that "God is the one who protects Israel" through natural disasters rather than military victory. What does this reveal about how God works in history?
7. Read Ezekiel 39:21-22, 28-29. What is God's ultimate purpose in this dramatic event? How does judgment lead to restoration?
8. The passage says multiple times that nations "will know that I am the LORD." Why is God so concerned with making Himself known? What does this teach us about His heart?

## **Timing and Application**

9. The sermon presented three main theories about when this battle occurs:
  - Before the Tribulation period
  - At the midpoint of the Tribulation
  - At the Battle of Armageddon (end of Tribulation)

Which theory makes the most sense to you and why? What questions do you still have?

10. Why do you think God leaves some prophetic details ambiguous? How should this affect our approach to studying end-times prophecy?
11. Jesus said "no one knows the day or hour" of His return. How should this truth shape how we respond to people who set dates or claim special prophetic knowledge?

## **Personal Application**

12. This passage shows God ultimately bringing His people back to Himself and pouring out His Spirit on them (39:29). How does this encourage you about God's faithfulness to His promises?

13. The nations that attack Israel are motivated by greed and desire for plunder. What "treasures" or securities are you tempted to pursue that might distract you from God's purposes?

14. God uses even the evil intentions of nations to accomplish His purposes and reveal Himself. How have you seen God work through difficult circumstances in your own life to draw you closer to Him or reveal Himself to others?

15. The passage emphasizes that after this event, Israel will know God and He will never hide His face from them again. What would it look like for you to live with that same confidence in God's presence?

## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

**Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:**

1. Study Deeper: Read Ezekiel 36-37 to understand the context of Israel's restoration that precedes chapters 38-39. Journal about what you learn about God's faithfulness.

2. Pray for Israel: Commit to praying daily for the peace of Jerusalem and for both Jews and Arabs to come to know Jesus as Messiah.

3. Check Your Heart: Examine what motivates your decisions. Are you driven by security, wealth, or comfort like Gog, or by God's purposes?

4. Share Hope: Find someone this week who is anxious about world events and share the hope that God is sovereign over history and faithful to His promises.

5. Resist Date-Setting: If you encounter someone making specific predictions about end-times events, graciously point them to Jesus' words that no one knows the day or hour.

### **Memory Verse**

#### **Ezekiel 39:7**

"So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Close your time by praying:**

- For wisdom to understand God's prophetic word
- For Israel and the Middle East
- For readiness for Christ's return
- For boldness to share the hope we have in Christ
- For trust in God's sovereignty over world events

### **Additional Resources**

- Study the Table of Nations in Genesis 10 to understand the ancient names referenced
- Research current events in Israel and the Middle East through a biblical lens
- Read other prophetic passages about Israel's future (Zechariah 12-14, Romans 11)

## **5-Day Devotional: God's Sovereign Plan for Israel and the Nations**



### **Day 1: The Gathering of God's People**

**Reading:** Ezekiel 36:24-28

#### **Devotional:**

God's faithfulness transcends human unfaithfulness. Just as He promised to regather Israel from among the nations, He gathers us from our scattered, broken places. The Israelites returned to their land in unbelief, yet God remained committed to His covenant. This reveals a profound truth: God's plans don't depend on our perfection but on His character. He transforms desolate places into fruitful gardens, both physically and spiritually. When you feel distant from God or spiritually barren, remember that He specializes in restoration. His Spirit breathes life into dry bones and turns wastelands into places of abundance. Your current spiritual state doesn't limit God's power to restore you.

**Reflection:** What "desolate places" in your life need God's restoring touch today?

## **Day 2: Divine Protection in Uncertain Times**

**Reading:** Psalm 46:1-11

### **Devotional:**

The account of Gog's attack against Israel reveals a stunning truth: when enemies surround us, God Himself becomes our defender. Israel faced overwhelming odds—multiple nations conspiring against them—yet God intervened supernaturally with earthquakes, confusion among enemies, and divine judgment. You may face situations where you feel outnumbered, outmatched, and vulnerable. The world's chaos can feel overwhelming. But God remains our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. He doesn't always prevent storms, but He commands them. When natural solutions fail, supernatural intervention prevails. Rest in the security that the same God who protected Israel is your protector. No weapon formed against His purposes will prosper.

**Reflection:** What circumstances make you feel most vulnerable? How can you trust God's protection today?

## **Day 3: God's Glory Revealed Through Judgment**

**Reading:** Ezekiel 38:18-23

### **Devotional:**

God's judgment serves a redemptive purpose: revelation. When He defeats Israel's enemies, the text repeatedly states, "Then they shall know that I am the Lord." Judgment isn't merely punitive; it's revelatory. Through His actions in history, God makes His character known to a watching world. When we witness injustice, oppression, or evil seemingly triumphant, we can trust that God sees and will act. His timing may not match ours, but His justice is certain. The nations who attacked Israel learned God's holiness through defeat. Sometimes God allows challenges to reveal His power and draw people to Himself. Your trials may be the platform for God's glory to shine brightest, revealing His character to others.

**Reflection:** How have past difficulties revealed God's character to you or others around you?

## **Day 4: Living in Watchful Peace**

**Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

### **Devotional:**

Israel dwelt in safety before Gog's attack—not because threats didn't exist, but because God was their security. This paradox of peace amid potential danger mirrors the Christian life. We live in a fallen world with real spiritual enemies, yet Christ offers genuine peace. Jesus said we'd have trouble in this world but to take heart because He has overcome it. Biblical peace isn't naivety about danger; it's confidence in God's sovereignty. Like Israel gathering wealth and living peacefully before the attack, we're called to live fully, invest in God's kingdom, and rest in His promises while remaining spiritually alert. We don't know the day or hour of Christ's return, but we live as children of light, ready and watching.

**Reflection:** Are you living in anxious fear or confident peace? What needs to change?

## **Day 5: The Ultimate Victory and Restoration**

**Reading:** Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-5

### **Devotional:**

Ezekiel's prophecy points beyond immediate events to ultimate realities. Whether Gog's defeat happens before, during, or at the end of the tribulation, it foreshadows Christ's final victory over all evil. The mountains covered with blood, the birds feasting on flesh, and the earthquake all echo Revelation's imagery of Christ's return. But the story doesn't end with judgment—it culminates in restoration. God promises to pour out His Spirit, never hide His face again, and establish eternal peace. This is our hope: Christ returns not just to judge but to make all things new. Every tear wiped away, every wrong made right, every enemy defeated. Until that day, we live as witnesses to His coming kingdom.

**Reflection:** How does the promise of Christ's return shape how you live today?



**Closing Prayer:**

Father, thank You for Your sovereign plan that spans history and eternity. Help us trust Your timing, rest in Your protection, and live as faithful witnesses to Your coming kingdom. May we be a people who know You deeply and make You known clearly. In Jesus' name, Amen.